

APPENDIX

1. A labelling composition comprising a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers, said composition present in a dry state.
2. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labelled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.
3. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the random mixture is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.
4. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is present in a freeze-dried state.
5. A method of making labelled probes for a nucleic acid template, wherein the method comprises the steps of providing a nucleic acid template and providing the labelling composition of claim 1 and incubating the nucleic acid template under chain extension conditions with the labelling composition to produce labelled probes.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the labelled probes are present at a concentration of 2-10 O.D./ml.